

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00942 200227Z

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2444

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0942

EYES ONLY FOR ASST SEC HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID PP

SUBJ: PEACE CORPS/SOLOMONS

REF: STATE 163957

1. MY CONCERN ABOUT PCV LEVELS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH TIMING. I QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY OF SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE (NOW EXPECTED IN EARLY 1978) BUT BELIEVE THAT AFTER INDEPENDENCE WE SHOULD CONSIDER FURTHER EXPANSION IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION THEN PREVAILING. PC/SOLOMONS INFORMED ME IN MARCH THAT THE AVERAGE ON-BOARD STRENGTH FOR FY 77 IS 37 PCV'S AND FOR FY 78 WILL BE 40 TO 45 PCV'S. I DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO ABOVE THE 40 TO 45 RANGE (AND PREFER THE LOWER FIGURE) UNTIL WE CAN SEE THE ATTITUDE OF THE POST-INDEPENDENCE GOVERNMENT AND KNOW THE CLIMATE THE PCV'S WILL OPERATE IN. IN THE MEANTIME I WOULD LIKE TO SEE USG POLICY TOWARDS THE SOLOMONS SPELLED OUT IN CONSIDERABLY GREATER DETAIL THAN HAS YET BEEN DONE TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK AGAINST WHICH WE CAN CONSIDER PC OPERATIONS.

2. SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO THE POINTS YOU RAISE WOULD REQUIRE A VISIT TO HONIARA WHICH, GIVEN THE AIRLINE SCHEDULE, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT POSSIBLE WITHIN YOUR DEADLINE. IN GENERAL I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THE PEACE CORPS HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN THE SOLOMONS AND THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT VALUES ITS PRESENCE. THE GSI DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE CASH TO THE PC PROGRAM BUT, ACCORDING TO PC/SOLOMONS, ITS OFFSETTING CONTRIBUTION WAS 29 PERCENT OF THE VOLUNTEER BUDGET IN FY 77. WHILE THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF PCV'S IS IN HONIARA, A FEW PCV'S ARE LIVING IN VERY REMOTE

ISLANDS. I HAVE BEEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN ISOLATED SPOTS THAN ABOUT THE
CONCENTRATION IN HONIARA.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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